

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 46, 407

management of this because we are the Legislature setting a policy and Corrections system is going to have to be the one that would carry it out. And I would think there would have to be a cooperative venture, and I'd like to ask you also how this fits in with LB 46.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: LB 46 has nothing to do with this particular bill...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Okay. Well, LB 46...

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: ...amendment.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...does have a proposal about releasing prisoners when there's a certain occupancy rate, does it not?

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: That's right.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Okay. But I think we're having to look at this very seriously. I think it came to our attention specifically on the Appropriations Committee when we were astounded by the medical expense of the prisoners there. And I think that this is something that we have to look at. I'd like to hear some further discussion about this matter because I think we really do need to consider some far-reaching things. I frankly have been here in the Legislature for seven years and we've decried for those seven years that this prison thing keeps going on and on and on. We're building up the expenses. It's...I had to write a letter to my local newspaper and say I was frustrated by the fact that we're spending more and more on corrections and less and less on education, and it seems to me we need to do something to reverse that. And so I would commend Senator Pedersen's efforts. This is not a new thing with him. He's been working on similar type projects for about the last...well, ever since I've known him. And I think that he finally decided we've got to start taking a step. And so I would urge you to carefully consider this as a prospect that we need to give attention to. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Wehrbein, on the Pedersen amendment.